

**AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: MAY 6, 2009**

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**DEPARTMENT: OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**

**DIRECTOR: DAVID RIGGLEMAN**

**SUBJECT:**

RECOGNITION OF ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:**

Submitted at Meeting – Copies of Proclamations declaring May 2009 as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month for Kathleen Blakely, Wayne Tanaka and the Nevada Chapter of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations and Copy of Proclamation declaring May 4-10, 2009 as Public Service Recognition Week

Minutes:

COUNCILMAN WOLFSON recognized May 2009 as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month in the City of Las Vegas. Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated in May to coincide with the anniversaries of the arrival of Japanese immigrants in the United States and the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. People of Asian-Pacific Heritage from over 20 different countries and island nations call Las Vegas home, adding to the community's diversity, culture and history.

COUNCILMAN WOLFSON recognized KATHLEEN BLAKELY, Honorary Consul General of Japan in Las Vegas, who is dedicated to strengthening the relationship between Nevada and Japan. JEFFREY WINCHESTER, President of the Japan America Society of Nevada (JASN), appeared on behalf of MRS. BLAKELY and stated that the JASN works in conjunction with the Consul General's Office in San Francisco to improve economic ties between Japan and Las Vegas. MR. WINCHESTER also recognized MIHO RIGDON, JASN Executive Director, and BETTY ATKINS, JASN Treasurer.

COUNCILMAN WOLFSON invited the Filipiana Cultural and Arts Foundation Dance Group to the podium and thanked them for their performance before the meeting. The purpose of the Foundation is to promote the dances, languages and culture of the Philippines.

COUNCILMAN WOLFSON invited WAYNE TANAKA, long-time resident and educator with the Clark County School District (CCSD), to the podium. He recognized MR. TANAKA'S continued dedication to the community through events such as his Friends of Tanaka Golf Tournament to benefit Tanaka Elementary School. MR. TANAKA recently completed his term as Honorary Consul of Japan and had been awarded with the Order of the Rising Sun with Rosette, the highest honor bestowed by the Emperor of Japan. This recognized his efforts to improve relations between Japan and the United States and to improve the quality of life for Japanese-Americans living in Nevada.

MR. TANAKA thanked the Council for the recognition and the CCSD for their support and investment in his development as an educator. He expressed his continued commitment to education, stating that his success was the result of the City, CCSD and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department working together to improve the community.

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COUNCILMAN WOLFSON invited ROZITA LEE, National Vice Chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA), to join him at the podium. Filipinos are one of the largest cultural groups in Las Vegas with an estimated population of 100,000. NaFFAA is a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than 500 Filipino American organizations and umbrella organizations. MS. LEE was recently recognized by the President of the Philippines for her efforts in promoting the welfare of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans. MS. LEE thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition and noted the efforts of JING ESPIRITU, Chair of the Nevada Chapter of NaFFAA, NOEL CASIMIRO, Vice Chair of the Nevada Chapter of NaFFAA, and MARTIN CELEMIN, NaFFAA Regional Chair, to increase awareness of the Filipino people and culture. She explained that NaFFAA is dedicated to voter registration, education, mobilization and protection.

**ADDITIONAL RECOGNITIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

COUNCILMAN WOLFSON recognized Public Service Week and presented the proclamation to CITY MANAGER ELIZABETH FRETWELL. He acknowledged the professionalism and knowledge displayed by City employees, a diverse team capable of facing many challenges. CITY MANAGER FRETWELL thanked the Mayor and Council for their recognition of public servants and the nearly 3,000 City employees who serve the City and its residents on a daily basis.

THE MEETING WAS RECESSED FROM 10:12 A.M. to 10:14 A.M.

MAYOR GOODMAN invited the students from the University of Nevada Las Vegas' Department of Counselor Education to the dais and asked the students to introduce themselves.